



Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control

*Preventing  
environmental  
damage from  
hazardous waste,  
and restoring  
contaminated  
sites for all  
Californians.*



State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, June 2006

## You may comment on an Interim Removal Workplan for FMC Modesto

### Introduction

Beginning June 14, 2006, you may comment on a draft Interim Removal Action Workplan (IRAW) for the FMC Corporation (FMC) property, in Modesto, California. A draft IRAW is an early action that DTSC uses to clean up portions of a site. The remaining areas will be addressed at a later date.

FMC owns the property at 1200 Graphics Drive in Modesto, California, 95351 (please see the map on page two). The Department of Toxic Substances Control oversees the soil investigation and will make a decision on the approval of the Interim RAW at the conclusion of the public comment period. The FMC property is a totally separate project from the California Department of Transportation's investigation of three soil stockpiles south of Kansas Avenue on both sides of State Highway 99.

### What are the Contaminants of Concern?

The contaminants of concern in soil include barium, arsenic, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, and total petroleum hydrocarbons.

#### Barium

Barium is a metal which exists in nature and is derived from barite, a mineral composed of barium sulfate. Barium compounds are used by industry for a variety of purposes, including drilling muds, paint, bricks, ceramics, glass, rubber, and medical uses.

#### Arsenic

Arsenic is an element which exists in nature and is commonly associated with minerals. Arsenic is used by industry for a variety of purposes, including pesticides, wood preservatives, medical, and semi-conductors.

#### Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons

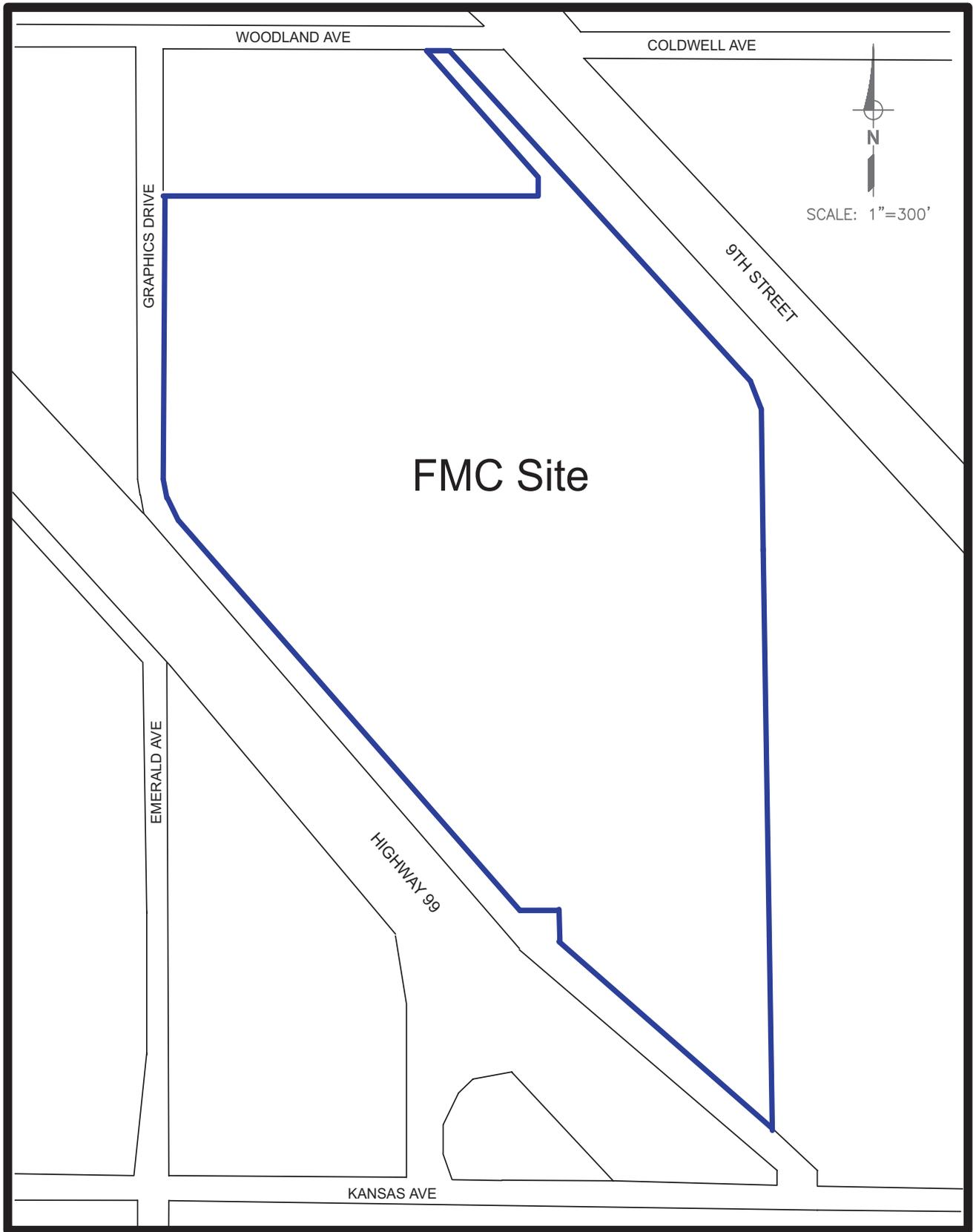
Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (also known as PAHs) are a group of over 100 different chemicals that are formed during the incomplete burning of coal, oil and gas, garbage, or

### *Public Comment Period*

**June 14, 2006 to July 14, 2006**

You may send your comments on the draft IRAW to Mr. Randy Adams, Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento CA 95826 or by e-mail to [RAdams@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:RAdams@dtsc.ca.gov).





other organic substances. PAHs are usually found as a mixture containing two or more of these compounds, such as soot.

#### Total petroleum hydrocarbons (mostly recognized as TPH)

TPH is a term used to describe a large family of several hundred chemical compounds that originally come from crude oil. Crude oil is used to make petroleum products.

Because there are so many different chemicals in crude oil and in other petroleum products, it is not practical to measure each one separately. DTSC and the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board want to clean up the TPH in the soil so as to protect water quality and protect human health.

There may be adverse effects on human health, if prolonged exposure to barium, arsenic, and PAHs occurs.

#### **Am I Being Exposed to These Contaminants?**

Even though there are elevated levels of contaminants in FMC's soil, there is no immediate risk to the public. The FMC site is fenced and consists of mostly vacant land and the remnants of several empty buildings. The fence keeps people off the FMC site making any exposure to the contaminated soil minimal.

#### **About the Site**

The 43-acre FMC site is located in an industrial area. FMC is fenced and currently consists of vacant land and several empty buildings. FMC used the site to process barium and strontium ores, beginning with barite in the 1920s and celestite in the 1960s using petroleum coke as a reducing agent. Various other chemicals were manufactured including sodium sulfide and arsenic compounds. These manufacturing activities ceased in 1984 and have resulted in soil and groundwater contamination at FMC. FMC has pumped and treated contaminated groundwater beneath the site since 1996. DTSC will develop a final cleanup plan at a later date to address groundwater contamination.

#### **Proposal To Dig Up and Take Away the Contaminated Soil**

Of all the options considered, digging up and taking away contaminated soil to an authorized landfill, proved to be the most effective, most protective of human health, and easiest way to clean up the FMC site and make it safe for the environment.

The draft Interim RAW proposes the following:

- Dig up contaminated soil from the ground surface to ten feet below the ground surface in various locations. Most of the digging will occur from the ground surface to two feet below the ground surface.
- Use backhoes and loaders to place excavated soil in temporary stockpiles, and cover with plastic until the soil is sampled and classified for disposal in an appropriate off-site landfill.
- Control dust during excavation, placement in temporary stockpiles, and during loading for transport off-site.
- Take soil samples from excavated areas to make sure all contaminated soil has been removed.
- Water down all equipment to make sure contaminated soil is not taken off-site.
- Transport contaminated soil to an appropriate authorized landfill
- Fill excavated holes with soil and grade the FMC site to the existing ground surface level.
- If approved, FMC plans to start digging in late summer, finishing up before the rainy season begins in the late autumn.

#### **Proposed Cleanup Decision's Effects on the Environment**

As required by California state law (the California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA) we studied the possible effects the proposed cleanup could have on the environment. The FMC site is surrounded by commercial property and the distance to residences is approximately ½ mile, south of Highway 99. Transportation trucks will have direct access to Highway 99 without going through residential neighborhoods, (please see map). Additionally, the excavation work plan outlines dust and

erosion control measures and air monitoring during the digging, stockpiling, loading activities. Therefore, DTSC has determined that the cleanup qualifies for a Categorical Exemption (referred to as a Notice of Exemption) under CEQA.

### **Where can people review documents?**

The draft IRAW and Notice of Exemption are available for your review at the Stanislaus County Free Public Library, 1500 I Street, Modesto California, 95354. Please call (209) 558-7800 for their hours. These documents are also available on the [www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public) and at the Department of Toxic Substances Control's Sacramento Office located at 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California, 95826. If you want to review the full administrative record at our Sacramento office, please call Mr. Randy Adams at (916) 255-3591 to make arrangements.

### **Where to Send Comments?**

Comments on the IRAW must be postmarked no later than July 14, 2006. They can be mailed directly to Mr. Adams at the Department of Toxic Substances Control, Site Mitigation Branch, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California, 95826. You may also submit comments by e-mail to [radams@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:radams@dtsc.ca.gov).

### **Who to Call For More Information?**

If you have questions about the cleanup, please call Mr. Adams, Project Manager, at (916) 255-3591, or via email at [radams@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:radams@dtsc.ca.gov). You can also contact Ms. Heidi Nelson, Public Participation Specialist at (916) 255-3575 or via e-mail at [hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov). Ms. Nelson can also be contacted toll free by calling (866) 495-5651.

If you are a member of the media, please contact Carol Singleton, Public Information Officer, Department of Toxic Substances Control at (916) 255-6578 or e-mail her at [csinglet@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:csinglet@dtsc.ca.gov).

### **NOTICE TO THE HEARING IMPAIRED**

TDD users may obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Please ask them to contact Mr. Randy Adams at (916) 255-3591 regarding FMC.